How to Manage a Contamination Incident

Defense Security Service
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Standards & Quality Branch

Objectives

- Define a compromise
- Define a contamination
- Describe the causes of a contamination
- Discuss preparing an ad hoc team
- Review steps for conducting an Administrative Inquiry
- Review reporting requirements
- Discuss cleanup considerations

What is a compromise?

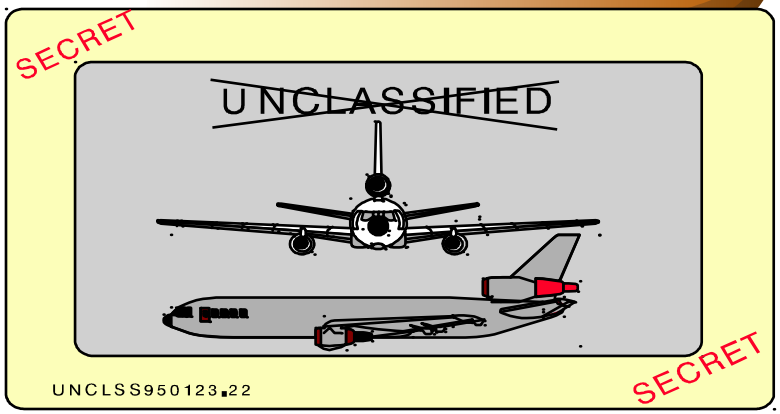
- **The disclosure of classified information to an unauthorized person**

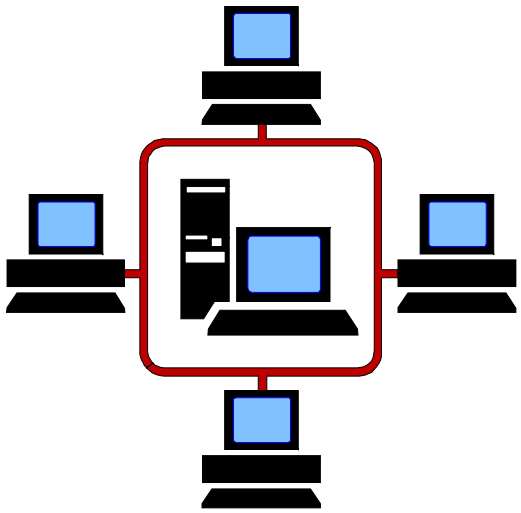
What is a contamination?

- When classified information s processed on a non-accredited IS

How does this happen?

- **Change in classification level**
- **Unsecure transmission**
- **Accidental / intentional use of non-accredited equipment**

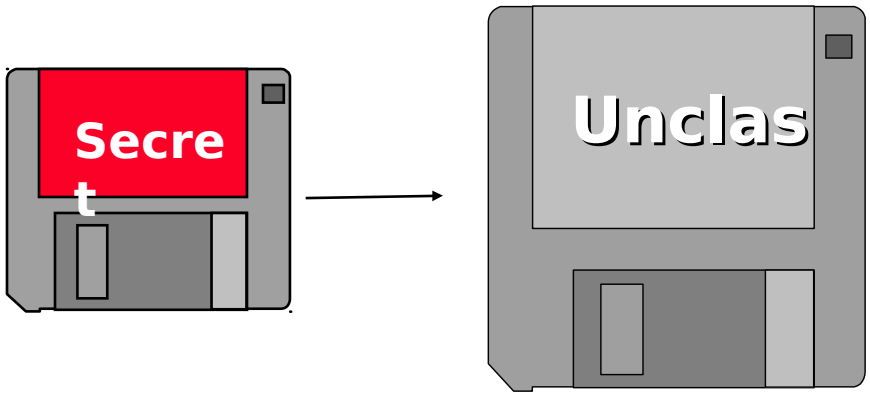




How does this happen?

- Unaccredited System with internal hard drive
- Cleared employee saves to floppy
- A temporary file created on internal hard drive then automatically deleted.

How does this happen?



1. “Track Changes” are hidden 2. Unclassified Extraction www.dss.mil/infoas/index.

How does this happen?

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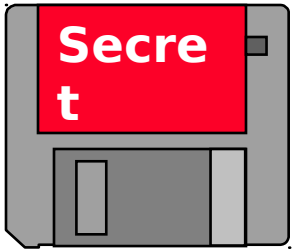
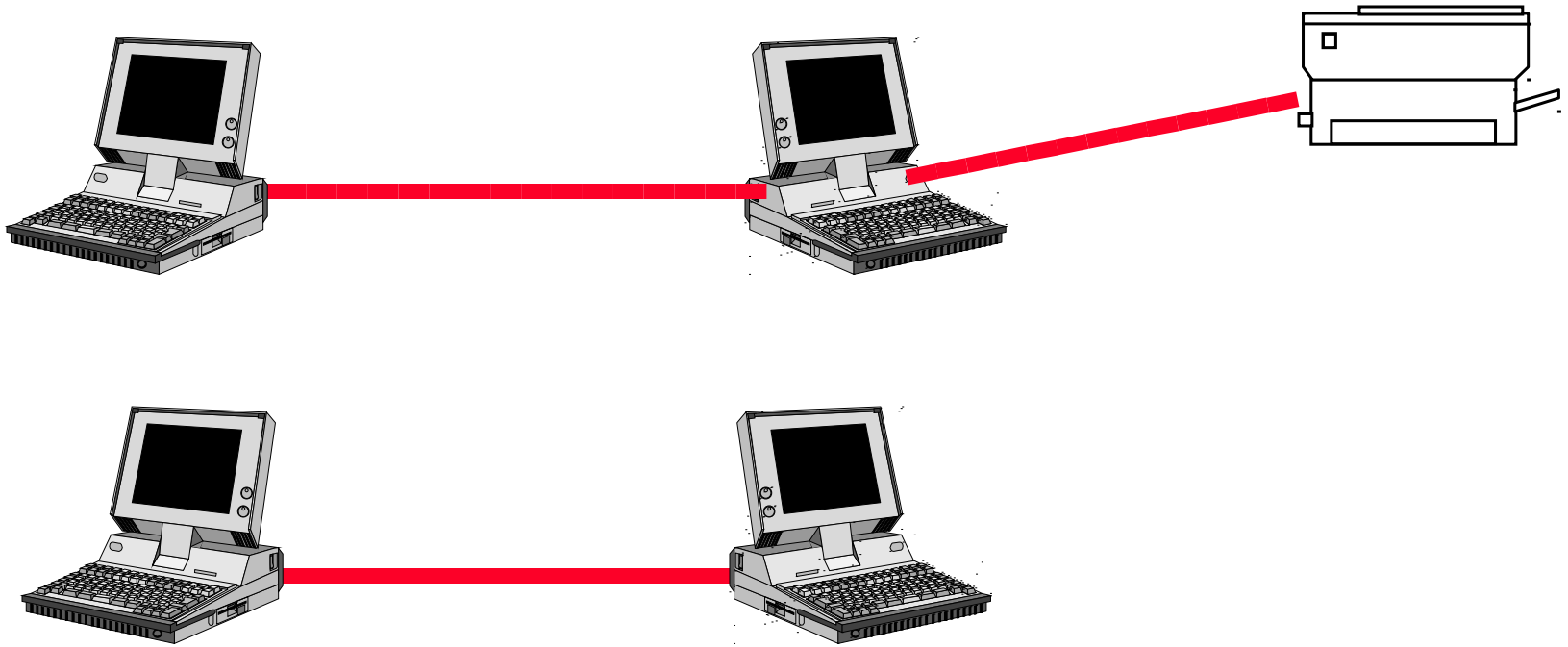


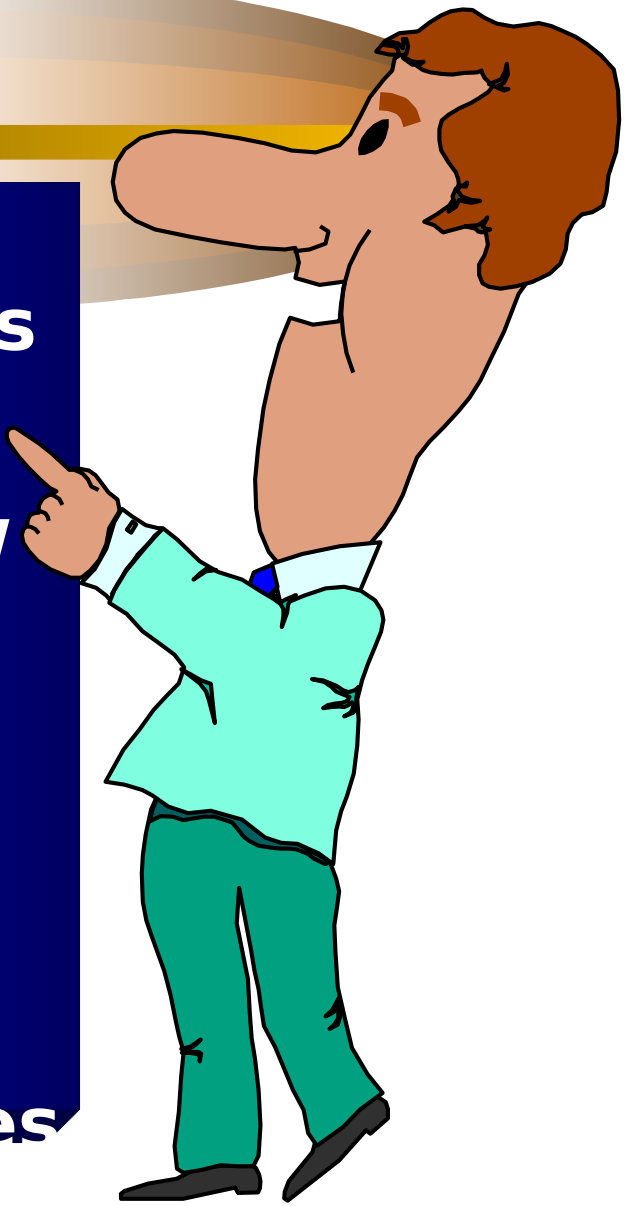
Compilation creates classified

How does this happen?



Attitudes can be a factor!

- People not following the rules
- Confusion
- Too busy to follow the rules
- Indifference
- It can’t happen here
- It cost too much
- Everyone else does



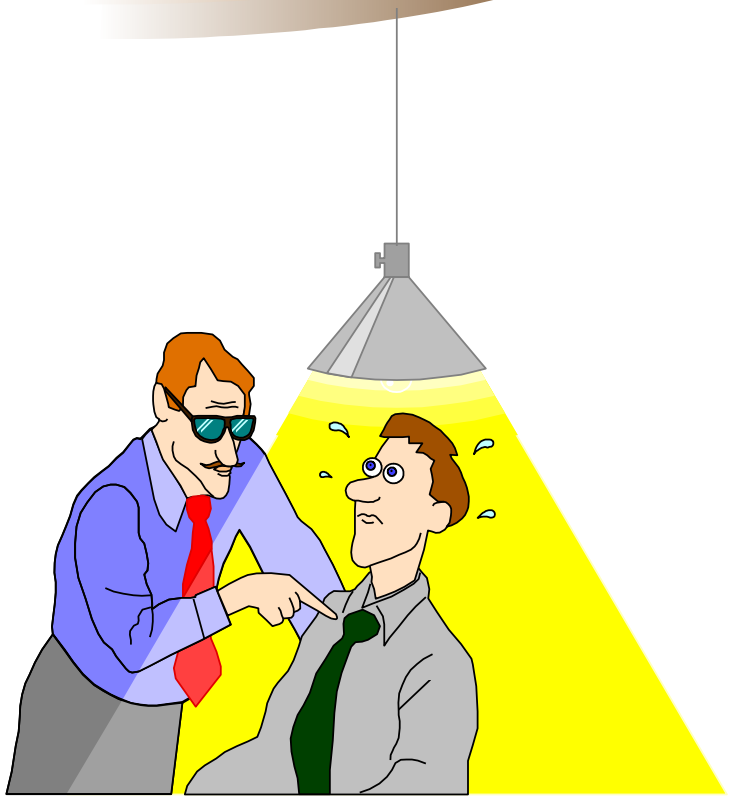
Before it happens, build an ad hoc team!

- No regular meetings
- SysAdmins proficient in each operating system
- SysAdmin proficient in email system
- Someone proficient in RAID drives
- Security Rep

RAID = Redundant Array of Independent Disks

Conducting an Administrative Inquiry!

- **Investigate the loss, compromise, or suspected compromise of classified information**



NISPOM Para 1-303

Conduct a preliminary inquiry!

- **Conduct *immediately***
- **Identify W^{5}H, <u>determine extent</u>**
- **“Did a loss, compromise or suspected compromise occur?”**

NISPOM Para 1-303a

Is there a loss, compromise, or suspected compromise?

- **Loss: material can’t be located within a reasonable period of time**
- **Compromise: disclosure to unauthorized person(s)**
- **Suspected compromise: when disclosure can’t be reasonably precluded**

Now what should be done?

- **Assemble ad hoc team**
- **Physically isolate, protect all contaminated equipment**
- **Remove unauthorized people**

What should be done? (cont.)

- **Call your Defense Security Service (DSS) IS Rep and/or ISSP***
- **Contact your customer, the data owner**
- **DO NOT DELETE DATA YET!**

*** Information Systems Security Professional**

DO NOT DELETE THE FILE!!

“Would you take care of this for me!”

What will DSS do?

- **Help you limit further systems from being contaminated.**
- **Work with you on sanitizing all infected systems.**

What are important facts?

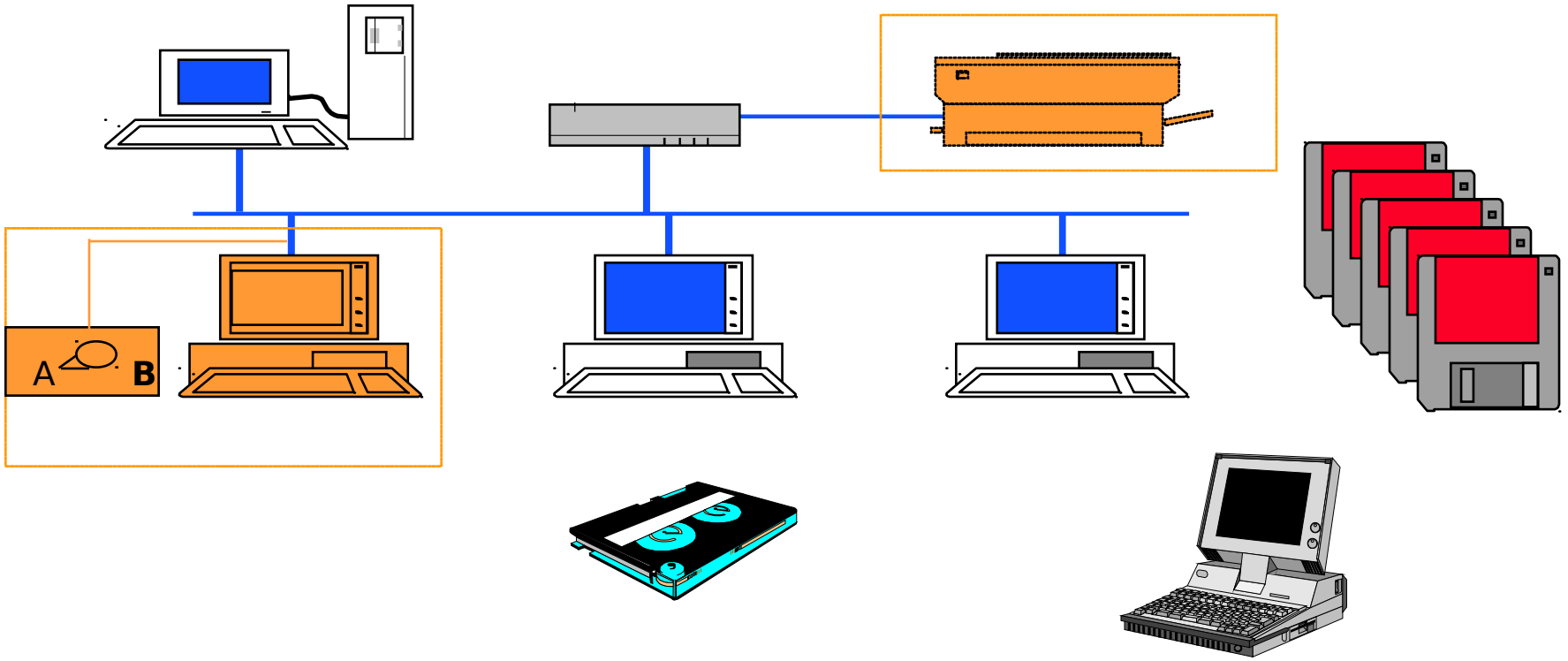
- **What platforms and O/Ss are involved?**
- **Are there any remote dial-ins**
- **Are there any other network connections?**
- **At what locations was the file or e-mail received (e-mail servers) or placed?**
- **Was the data encrypted?**
- **Was the file deleted?**
- **Is there RAID technology involved?**

What about an email server?

- **What type of email system is involved?**
- **Is System Administrator cleared?**
- **Ensure areas where deleted files are retained are addressed, e.g., MS Exchange's deleted item recovery container).**

MS Exchange is discussed because of its widespread use. DSS does not endorse any products.

Forget any components?

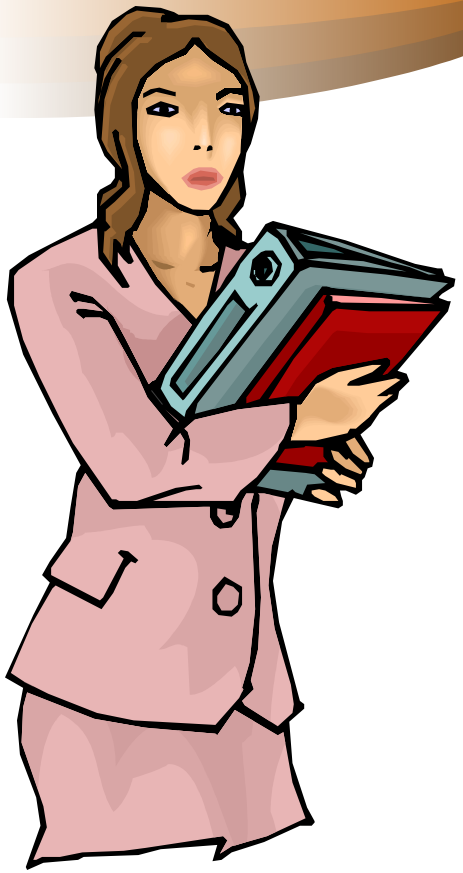


Follow through!

- **Gather and review Audit Trails that are applicable**
  - **Paper**
  - **Electronic**
- **Interview all people known to be involved**

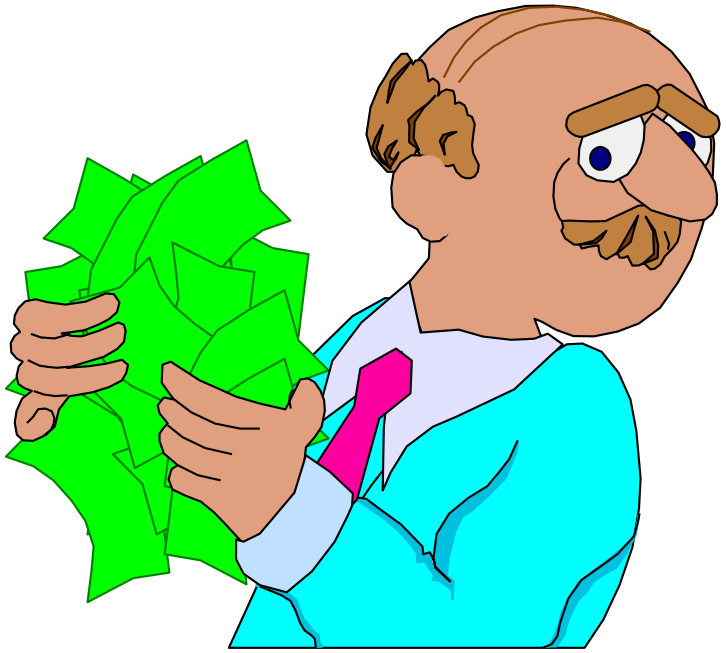
And finally…

- **Write and submit the final report (Paragraph 1-303c, NISPOM)**

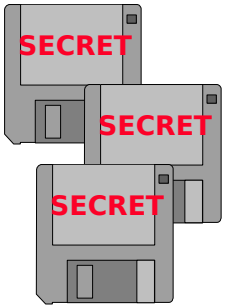


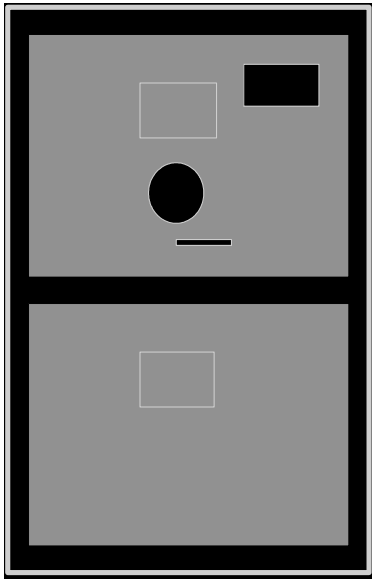
Follow available guidance!

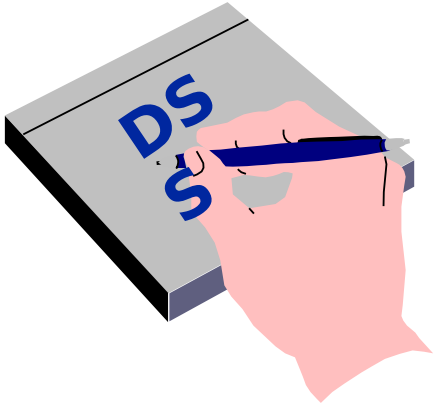
- **NISPOM AI Report Requirements (Paragraph 1-303)**
- **DSS Guidance for Conducting an AI**
- **Clearing and Sanitization Matrix**



And don’t forget to







- **Protect classified media**
- **Sanitize/clear the system components**
- **Write the report**

Available software utilities

- Norton Utilities "WipeInfo"
- ISTAC (Gov't Issued)
- Nuts & Bolts
- Novell's "Data Shredder" (Novell Consulting)
- Unishred Pro - HP Unix and Linux
- BCWipe
- Terminus
- Sun's "Purge" (With O/S)
- SGI "FX" (With O/S)
- Infraworks Products: Shredder and Sanitizer
- On-Track "Data Eraser"

Note: This is a partial list of products that have enabled contamination cleanup in the past.

DSS does not endorse any products.

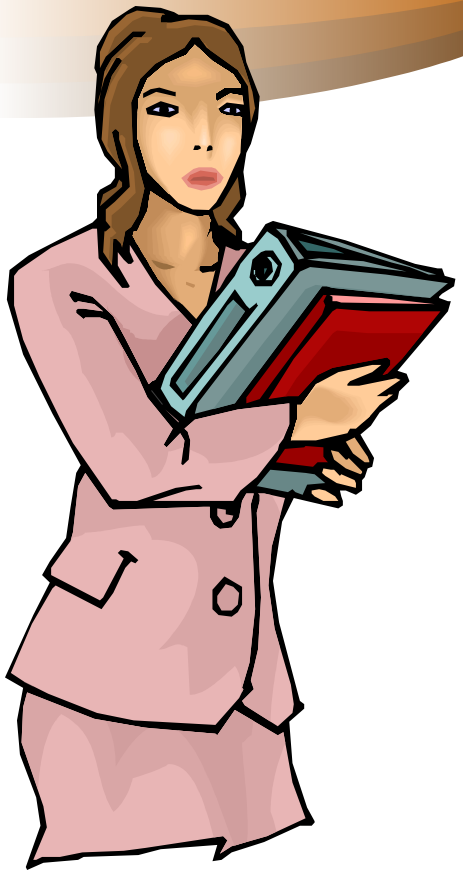
Report suspenses!

- **Initial - “promptly submit” (72 hours)**
- **Final - investigation is complete (15 days)**

NISPOM Para 1-303b,c

One last thing…

- **Send details to government customer to include cleanup action**
- **Include hardware and operating system platforms**
- **Request they provide additional cleanup steps within 30 days**



Summary

- What causes contaminations
- Possible cleanup considerations
- Reporting requirements

NISPOM Para 8-103b,c